

Securing Your Boat to the Trailer

When you are toodling down the highway, at often breakneck speed, but lets say 'normal highway speed', and you have to pull up suddenly, or swerve quickly to avoid an obstacle. What happens to the boat ?

Well this can be the start of a nightmare....

An excellent article by Mark Robinson of Club Marine "Towing the Line" gives valuable information for anyone with a boat and trailer. They deal with the wreckage that's left, so they know what they are talking about.

Full article here www.clubmarine.com.au/internet/clubmarine.nsf/docs/MG23-1+Water+Wise

Mark grabs your attention with the following comments....

"Or how about this... You were only going to tow your boat a short distance, so didn't think you'd need to secure it with tie-down straps. So you're approaching the intersection, when suddenly the light turns red. You're going a bit fast and have to stop quickly as there are cars waiting to turn in front of you. As you hit the brakes, your expensive new ski boat slides forward on the rollers with enough force to snap the winch post like a toothpick. The boat then launches off the trailer and over the roof of your car. A tonne of fibreglass and metal is now airborne and headed for the unsuspecting cars in front of you. In this case, a gruesome outcome was avoided by pure luck, the boat glancing off another car before coming to a shattered stop."



Why are we at Release & Retrieve Boat Latch Pty Ltd bringing this subject up ?

The reason is that we have always advised users of our product to hook up & unhook straps/chains and winch at the waters edge and not use the L & R Boat Latch to go up to the car park. Some have interpreted this as a comment that the Boat Latch will be not strong to do this. Actually it is, but we are dealing with human nature here.

Too often people continue on out of the car park onto the highway forgetting they only have the Latch to hold onto the boat. The 'real world' reality is that you need your winch, safety chains, and straps ALL ON. Everything you've dam well got !

It is just too easy to forget to do this.

The forces in the event of an accident are enormous. This is why we advise people do the change over at the water' edge - not in the car park ! before they forget - a good habit to get into.

Mark continues on.....

"The checklist should include ensuring the tow hitch is properly snugged down and that the safety chains are securely attached. All trailer lights should be checked, the winch should be properly locked, the brake lock-out secured and the bow eye safety chain should be fastened securely. All tie-downs need to be checked and tightened if needed. **Speaking of tie-downs, all vessels resting on trailers should be secured by tie-down straps at the transom. Without adequate restraint at the rear, boats can bounce on the rollers and skids, causing instability and hull and trailer damage.**"